



## State Fire Marshal Monthly Report to the California Fire Prevention Officers



**Kate Dargan  
State Fire Marshal**

Visit our new, and we believe, improved, website at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>. The new format brings us into compliance with the administration's mandated standards, and it also should make us a bit more user-friendly. As with all new things, we have to work out a few bugs and our users need to get used to some new locations for their information. We are hoping that our new format will help us serve our stakeholders even better. And as always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.



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# Engineering, Law Enforcement and Fire Prevention

## Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

It is that time of year again. Fire season is upon us and we reach out to residents of the wildland urban interface and ask them to create a defensible space around their homes. CAL FIRE news releases advise home owners to clear flammable materials from 30 feet around all structures. In addition, another 70 feet should be a “reduced fuel zone” by spacing trees and plants from each other. Our inspectors will be checking properties in the fire-prone Wildland Urban Interface for compliance with fire safe practices. As always, we encourage the public to visit the CAL FIRE website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov) for tips on living fire safe.

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## State Fire Training

### Fire Marshal Certification Training Standards

Development of the Fire Marshal Certification Training Standards (CTS) is underway using National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1031: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner (2003 Edition), and NFPA 1037: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshal (2007 Edition).

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## Fire and Life Safety

We would like to welcome our newest Deputy State Fire Marshal **Merridee McBride** to the Fire & Life Safety Division South team. Deputy McBride is from Ventura County and is a graduate of Oxnard Regional fire Academy and has worked as a volunteer firefighter with Ventura County F.D. Deputy McBride was a Fire Inspector for Pepperdine University and was instrumental in putting the Fire & Life Safety Program together for the University.



Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist **Mike Tanaka** has transferred from Fire Engineering to Fire and Life Safety North. Mike will be conducting plan review out of the Sacramento Headquarters office and conducting some field inspections. Mike can be reached at (916) 324-3783 or [mike.tanaka@fire.ca.gov](mailto:mike.tanaka@fire.ca.gov)



Fire and Life Safety North has a new Deputy State Fire Marshal, **Polly Parenti**. Polly has five years of experience with Fresno Fire Department and works part time as a park ranger for the City of San Jose at Alum Rock Park. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fresno Pacific University in Organizational Leadership and is currently taking classes towards a Master's of Public Administration degree at Fresno State University. Polly will be training at the Sacramento Headquarters office over the next few months and then be assigned to Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.

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## Pipeline Safety

### Spring Industry Training Conference a success

#### Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Seminar

The Office of the State Fire Marshal hosted a 2 day training seminar on April 2 and 3, 2008 in Del Mar. Presentations were made to the pipeline industry, local and state government personnel and others regarding federal and state regulations pertaining to the safe operation and maintenance of hazardous liquid pipelines. With over 180 attendees, this was the largest attendance in 20 years. Presentations are available at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pipelinehome.html>



# Code Development

## Code Development and Analysis Division current activities:

- Working on emergency regulations for Group I-2 occupancies (hospitals) having occupied floors more than 75 feet above fire department access.
- Coordinating with the Department of Housing and Community Development in their review of the ICC International Residential Code for consideration of future adoption and any necessary SFM amendments (e.g. Residential Care Facilities, Wildland-Urban Fire Interface, roofing, NFPA 72, emergency escape and rescue openings).
- Continuing progress on the California Fire Code with Title 19 provisions incorporated/reprinted therein with Cal Chiefs Fire Prevention Officers Association committee.
- Coordinating with the Divisions of State Architect and the Department of Housing and Community Development to create an Information Bulletin and consider clarifying amendments to the California Building Code for Group I-1 occupancies and the applicable accessibility standards.

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**CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal**

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